

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 ACDA-19

SSO-00 /129 W

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P R 200525Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0942

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USUN NEW YORK 0592

UNCLAS SAIGON 00866

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPOR CH TS VS

SUBJECT: PRC-GVN CLASH IN PARACELS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY GVN FOREIGN MINISTRY  
LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 19.

1. BEGIN TEXT. COMMUNIQUE BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CONCERNING THE MILITARY ACTIONS INITIATED  
BY COMMUNIST CHINA IN THE HOANG SA ARCHIPELAGO AREA (19 JANUARY  
1974)

2. SUBSEQUENT TO ITS PREPOSTEROUS CLAIMS ON JANUARY 11, 1974 OF  
SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE VIETNAMESE ARCHIPELAGOS OF HOANG-SA (PARACELS)  
AND TRUONG-SA (SPRATLEYS), COMMUNIST CHINA HAS SENT NAVAL UNITS  
TO THE HOANG-SA AREA, AND LANDED TROOPS ON THE ISLANDS OF CAM  
TUYEN (ROBERT), QUANG-HOA (DUNCAN) AND DUY-MONG (DRUMMOND).

3. THE COMMUNIST CHINESE NAVAL TASK FORCE IS COMPOSED OF  
ELEVEN WARSHIPS OF VARIOUS TYPES AND TONNAGES, INCLUDING ONE MISSILE-  
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SHIP OF THE KOMAR TYPE.

4. IN THE FACE OF THIS MILITARY AGGRESSION, AND IN ORDER TO DEFEND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, VIETNAMESE NAVAL FORCES STATIONED IN THE AREA SUMMONED THE INVADERS TO LEAVE.

5. INSTEAD OF COMPLYING, THE COMMUNIST CHINESE VESSELS CHOSE TO ENGAGE SINCE JANUARY 18, 1974 IN PROVOCATIVE MANEUVERS AND ATTEMPTED TO RAM THE VIETNAMESE SHIPS.

6. THIS MORNING, JANUARY 19, 1974 AT 10:20 HOURS, A COMMUNIST CHINESE ESCORT-SHIP OF THE KRONSTADT TYPE OPENED FIRE ON THE VIETNAMESE DESTROYER "TRAN KHANH DU" HQ-04. VIETNAMESE UNITS RETURNED FIRE IN SELF-DEFENSE AND DAMAGED THE CHINESE VESSEL. THE ENGAGEMENTS ARE STILL GOING ON CAUSING CASUALTIES AND MATERIAL LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES.

7. THE MILITARY ACTIONS INITIATED BY COMMUNIST CHINA CONSTITUTE AN OVERT AGGRESSION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THEY ONCE AGAIN POINT TO THE EXPANSIONIST AND IMPERIALISTIC POLICY CONSISTENTLY PURSUED BY COMMUNIST CHINA, AS ILLUSTRATED BY ITS ANNEXATION OF TIBET, INVASION OF KOREA AND ATTACKS AGAINST INDIA.

8. THE PRESENT AGGRESSION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM NOT ONLY THREATENS THE SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, BUT CONSTITUTES ALSO A DANGER TO PEACE AND STABILITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE ENTIRE WORLD.

9. AS A SMALL NATION UNJUSTLY ATTACKED BY A BIG MILITARY POWER, THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM APPEALS TO ALL JUSTICE - AND PEACE - LOVING NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO RESOLUTELY CONDEMN THE BRUTAL ACTS OF WAR BY COMMUNIST CHINA AGAINST AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN NATION TO COMPEL COMMUNIST CHINA SO AS TO IMMEDIATELY DESIST FROM ITS DANGEROUS COURSE OF ACTION. TO ALLOW THIS BRAZEN AGGRESSION TO GO UNCHECKED WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE THE AGGRESSOR TO PERSIST IN ITS EXPANSIONIST POLICIES WHICH WOULD THREATEN THE VERY EXISTENCE OF SMALL NATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN ASIA.

10. IN THE COURSE OF THEIR HISTORY, THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAD DEFEATED MANY FOREIGN AGGRESSORS. TODAY THE GOVERNMENT AND

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PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARE NO LESS DETERMINED TO DEFEND THE INTEGRITY OF THEIR NATIONAL TERRITORY. END TEXT.  
MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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